

5. Earlier Portia tried to play upon Brutus' emotions by tugging him to let her enter his innermost thoughts if only she had the slightest seat in his heart. If he does not love her, then she ceases to be his wife. This is the most powerful plea that a woman can make and this succeeds invariably. No man can deny this.

Act II, Scene II

PASSAGE 1

1. Caesar and Calpurnia are in a room in Caesar's house. It is night and Caesar is in his night gown.
2. By 'ceremonies' Calpurnia means omens that signal bad occurrences in future. The main cause of her fears is that Caesar has decided to go out at such a time when there is a storm outside.
3. Calpurnia's warnings to Caesar are taken lightly because Caesar believes that what is to happen will happen. Calpurnia should not take omens seriously. Caesar asks his servants to tell him what the priests have said.
4. A lioness gave birth to her young ones in the streets, graves opened to let the dead bodies out. Fierce and angry armed men fought in the clouds. Blood dropped on the capitol in showers.
5. Caesar shows his arrogance that he does not fear death. Only cowards fear death before their death. Valiants like him never fear death because death is inevitable.

PASSAGE 2

1. Caesar says that death is inevitable so men should not fear death. Only the cowards fear death and they die many times in their imagination before their actual death.
2. When the priest offered the sacrifice of an animal and pulled the entrails of the animal, he found that the beast had no heart in it. To this Caesar says that the gods have done so to show that they look down upon cowardice. He means to say that if he shows cowardice and stays at home, it means that he is like the beast without a heart.
3. Caesar says that danger knows well that Caesar is more dangerous than danger itself, because Caesar and danger are two lions born on the same day, and Caesar thinks that he is the elder and therefore the more dreadful of the two.
4. She requests Caesar not to go out today, say just on account of her fears, and not because of Caesar's fears. She adds that they will send Mark Antony to the Senate house, and he will inform them that Caesar was not well. She begs of Caesar on her knees to change his decision.

5. Decius Brutus enters soon after this. He uses flattery to change the mind of Caesar. He tells Caesar that the latter hates flatterers and Caesar says that is right. Thus he plays upon Caesar's weakness for flattery. He interprets Calpurnia's dream that Caesar's blood flowing in different channels is a good omen that the Romans are being nourished by Caesar's blood.

PASSAGE 3

1. She is Calpurina, Caesar's wife. She saw in her dream Caesar's statue drizzling blood like a fountain with a hundred spouts, and many Romans were washing their hands smilingly in his blood.
2. Decius Brutus came to take Caesar to the Capitol. A little later, Publius, a senator along with the conspirators and then Antony arrive to accompany Caesar to the Capitol.
3. Calpurnia bent on her knees is similar to Portia in the same condition. Both are concerned about the well-being of their husbands. Caesar as husband is unlike Brutus as a husband. Whereas Caesar is rigid and ignores his wife. Brutus is considerate towards his wife as he is ready to give her the equal status as his wife.
4. Decius interprets Calpurnia's dream to show how Romans shall renew their strength from him. He says that as Caesar is brave he should not give in to any superstition. His interpretation so impresses Caesar that he gets angry with his wife for preventing him from going to the Senate.
5. Caesar decides to go to the Senate. The scene makes it clear that both Decius and Cassius are cunning and good manipulators of human mind.

PASSAGE 4

1. The 'good friends' mentioned here are those who want to take Caesar to the Senate. They are : Cinna, Metellus, Trebonius and Brutus.
2. To call all these persons who are actually the conspirators as 'good friends' is ironical as they all are planning to murder Caesar.
3. These good friends have left no pains to spare to accompany Caesar to the senate where they want to surround him and murder him lest Caesar should change his mind.
4. 'Yearns' here means 'sore and regretful'. Brutus grieves to contemplate that friendliness is not friendship. Brutus' sickness at heart in committing the deceitful act is revealed here. It is in contrast to his earlier stand that the conspirators should not be butchers.
5. It is morning. Caesar was surprised to see Antony awake so early because he is given to merry making till late night.

Act II, Scene III

PASSAGE 1

1. The conspirators mentioned in the letter of Artemidorus are : Brutus, Cassius, Casca, Cinna, Trebonius, Metellus Cimber, Decius, Brutus, Caires, Ligarius.
2. Caesar is warned to beware of Brutus, take hold of Cassius, keep an eye on Cinna, never trust, Trebonius, take note of Metellus Cimber. Decius does not love Caesar, and Caius Ligarius has been wronged by Caesar.
3. If Caesar happens to read Artemidorus letter, he will take caution and may be saved. But if he does not read letter, he will become a victim of the conspiracy and lose his life.
4. The priests had warned Caesar earlier against going to the Capitol. But Caesar had ignored their warning saying that he is not a coward and is more dangerous than danger itself.
5. Unsuspecting feeling of self assurance leaves ample room for evil to donimate.

Act II, Scene IV

PASSAGE 1

1. Portia and Lucius are in Brutus' house. Lucius is Brutus' trusted friend. He is confused because he does not know what he is supposed to do because Portia has told him to go to the Capitol and come back soon.
2. Portia is tense because she is extremely disturbed at heart about Brutus and the success of his plan to murder Caesar.
3. She had earlier uttered that she had a man's brain but in other respects she was as weak as a woman because it is very difficult for women to keep a secret.
4. Portia is worried about Brutus because Brutus and the conspirators have hatched a very dangerous plot to murder Caesar. Brutus added to her anxiety by telling her about this plan.
5. Portia had instructed Lucius to bring her the word if Brutus was well. She also told Lucius to take note of what Caesar was saying and what the visitors were pressing upon Caesar to do.

PASSAGE 2

1. Portia meets the soothsayer in the street before the House of Brutus. Portia's fears are that if the soothsayer succeeds in his intention to warn Caesar of some danger her husband will fail in his mission.

2. The soothsayer's presence is intended to heighten the suspense and increase the anxiety of Portia about her husband's safety. The day is significant as Caesar is to be killed on this day by the conspirators.
3. The soothsayer wants to warn Caesar against an impending danger to his life. He wants a more secure and empty place to stand because he fears lest he should be crushed by the crowd.
4. 'Throng' means 'crowd'. The crowd is to witness the crowning ceremony of Caesar. Portia is portrayed in the scene as a loving and caring wife. Her agitation about her husband shows her immense love and loyalty for her husband. She seems to be in the knowledge of Caesar's murder. It seems she has tacit support for an 'evil' cause.